

Linda D. Kozaryn



South African Defense Minister Patrick Lekota listens to U.S. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen during a press conference held as part of Cohen's visit to Africa.

DOD Promotes Global Reform

Washington — The Department of Defense has gone through a lot since the Cold War ended and new challenges replaced old enemies. The Pentagon has reformed and modernized the armed forces to meet the changing security threats of the new century. DOD is now sharing its experience and expertise in this area with other nations that need to do the same.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen traveled to Morocco and South Africa in February to express America's willingness to share its knowledge in this arena. Bad weather canceled a scheduled stop in Nigeria.

The United States would like to see economic development and prosperity in Africa rather than continuing conflict, senior U.S. officials said. To further this end, President Bill Clinton visited the continent in 1998. His visit served as a foundation for initiatives to shape a more stable, prosper-

ous and democratic environment. Since then, U.S. officials have engaged in an evolving partnership with African nations. — *Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service*

Air Force Takes Cross-Country Titles

Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. — Air Force runners nailed three individual cross-country titles here Feb. 6 on their way to their second consecutive team crown in the Armed Forces Cross Country Championships.

The Air Force team's com-

bined time of 3:21.20 provided a 28-second margin of victory over second-place Army. Navy and Marine Corps finished third and fourth, respectively.

The winners of last year's events defended their titles, but only Maj. Kimberly Markland of Bolling AFB in Washington, D.C., was successful, clocking 18 minutes flat as the women's five-kilometer winner. Marine Corps Capt. Patty Restrepo of Camp Pendleton, Calif., finished 36 seconds behind to take second place.

Air Force won the women's title based on a combined 56:18 time, of Markland's first-place finish and her teammates' third- and eighth-place finishes.

The men's five-kilometer race saw just six seconds separating the top three finishers. Air Force Capt. Nick MacFalls of Los Angeles AFB, Calif., held off SPC Samuel Wilbur, Fort Carson, Colo., for a two-second win in 14:57. Third place went to Ensign Mike Ryan of

the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington.

Army men won the five-kilometer team title, on the strength of a combined time posted by Wilbur; and Fort Carson soldiers SPC Wynston Alberts and SPC Teddy Mitchell, who took fourth and eighth place, respectively.

Tense finishes continued in the 12-kilometer race, where Capt. Eric Mack of Randolph AFB, Texas, finished first to earn the individual title, though Navy took the team title. — *Maj. Gus Schalkham, 45th Space Wing Public Affairs Office*



2LT Erin Finley

Marine Capt. Patty Restrepo of Camp Pendleton, Calif., crosses the finish line to earn 2nd place in the women's race.



New Stamp Honors Vietnam Veterans

Washington — The U.S. Postal Service recently unveiled a new Vietnam Veterans Memorial commemorative postage stamp to honor all veterans, particularly those who died in battle or are listed as missing.

The 33-cent Vietnam Veterans Memorial stamp portrays a veteran touching "The Wall," where more than 58,000 names of those killed or listed as missing are inscribed on

black granite. The stamp was illustrated by Robert Rodriguez of Pasadena, Calif., and designed by Carl Herrman of Carlsbad, Calif.

"This stamp is for veterans everywhere. It's for the men and women — including many of our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends — who gave their lives to protect and serve others," said chief postal inspector Ken Weaver, who unveiled the stamp at the memorial on the National Mall. — *U.S. Postal Service PAO*